America who abhor violence and have no truck with extremists are becoming alienated and are facing harassment in the matter of securing visas to India and other additional permits required to reach home town in Punjab;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps, if any, are being taken to help these peaceful Sikh residents of North America?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the visa rules of the Government, Indian Missions in North America, as in other parts of the world, are authorised to grant tourist visas for India to foreigners including those of Indian origin, who have not come to the adverse notice of the Government. Doubtful cases and cases of persons whose antecedents are suspect, are referred to Government of India for consideration. All foreigners, including those of Indian origin need restricted area permits to visit Punjab.

Applications for visa for India and restricted area permits from Sikh residents in North America are dealt with in the same manner as those of other foreigners. Therefore, the report that the Sikh residents are harassed is not correct.

**Indo-Bangladesh talks on Ganga waters**

1904. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFIARS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a consequence of talks held with the President of Bangladesh recently at New Delhi, India has agreed to include a third country in the negotiations to be held with Bangladesh regarding Ganga Waters; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No Sir. India has not agreed to include a third country in the negotiations to be held with Bangladesh regarding Ganga Waters.

(b) Does not arise.

**Recovery of dues from the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation**

1905. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what amount the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation owe to LIC and other nationalised and scheduled banks as on date;

(b) since how long these dues are pending and what are the specific reasons for not paying back the amount;

(c) what steps are being taken to recover these arrears from the Corporation; and

(d) whether the Kerala Government stood any gurantee for any of these loans, and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) According to information available with Government, the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) owe to LIC an amount of Rs. 231.68 lakhs both for principal and interest thereon, the Corporation having fallen in arrears since 31-3-1985. The reasons for not paying LIC dues may be the financial difficulties of KSRTC. The Union Finance Secretary wrote to Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala, on 25-4-1986 for expeditious clearance of

arrears. Also, the matter was taken up with the Union Ministry of Transport. Later, an official level meeting took place between LIC and Kerala State Government at Trivandrum on 24th and 25th July, 1986, wherein it was agreed that arrears will be cleared in three half-yearly instalments commencing from 15-8-1986. The loans advanced by LIC are against the security of hypothecation of vehicles and do not carry any State Government guarantee as such.

In accordance with the provisions contained in the Statutes covering public sector banks and the practices customary among the bankers, information relating to the affairs of individual constituents are not to be divulged.

**FICCI Meeting**

1906. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a recent meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry held on July 14, 1986, the point of view of Indian business community in regard to the new round of multilateral trade negotiations to be held in September, 1986 under the auspices of GATT was spelt out; and

(b) if so, what are the items on the agenda of the GATT meeting and what were the views expressed at the above mentioned meeting of the FICCI held on July 14, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) A workshop on Multilateral Trade Negotiations was organised by FICCI on 14th July, 1986 in New Delhi. The views expressed at the Workshop are briefly summarised in the enclosed statement. (*See* below).

In accordance with the decision taken by the GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES at their last session, a ministerial level meeting is being convened at Punta del Este (Uruguay) from 15 September, 1986. The meeting would be exclusively devoted to the subject of the proposed new round of multilateral trade negotiations.

**Statement**

The participants of the FICCI Workshop felt that the New Round Multilateral Trade Negotiations should take cognizance of the principle of differential and special treatment for developing countries which had been accepted as an integral part of GATT System. Whatever tariff concessions agreed upon should be faithfully implemented and care taken to guard against their erosion. Tariff cuts should be deep on products not covered by Generalised System of Preferences, especially those in which the developing countries have comparative advantages. Generalised System of Preference should be improved upon by extending the product coverage and eliminating the in-built limitation.

It was also felt that there was need for some kind of international agreement or understanding with regard to the farm sector atleast till such time the agriculture was brought into the purview of GATT. Similarly, there was need to phase out the Multi-Fibre Arrangement after its expiry.

There was divergence of views in regard to inclusion of services in the Next Round Multilateral Trade Negotiations. However, the consensus was that there was no harm in discussing the matter provided (a) the services were clearly defined, (b) safeguard mechanism devised, and (c) the forum at which it would be discussed was agreed upon. In short, India's national interest and